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# Seoul Thwarts Students' March to North

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SEOUL, South Korea, June 10 — A march to the border by South Korean students for a meeting with their North Korean counterparts failed today when tens of thousands of riot policemen blocked their path.

The marchers also had no significant public support. They were opposed not only by the Government but by the main opposition parties.

Clashes between several thousand students and riot police officers erupted across Seoul as the students sought to reach the border. Students attacked riot policemen with stones, sticks and firebombs at Yonsei University while the police went on the offensive downtown, firing tear gas at demonstrators who lay down in the middle of a road leading north.

But the protests did not match the intensity or the political momentum of last year's student-led demonstrations, which forced the Government to allow democratic changes and direct presidential elections. It was a year ago that President Chun Doo Hwan designated Roh Tae Woo as his successor, touching off three weeks of nationwide protests.

## Reunification a New Cause

Now the students have taken up a new cause: reunification with the North and withdrawal of American troops from the South.

At the village of Panmunjom, in the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas, students had hoped today to discuss how to draw closer together. They were to discuss allowing North Korea to co-host the Olympic Games, and scheduling of a North-South student athletic meet to coincide with the opening of the Games in September.

South Korea is engaged in a debate over how best to ease tension with the Communist North, from which it has been divided since the end of World War II, and the Government has moved to open up discussions.

But officials banned today's student meeting, calling it a propaganda exercise that would undermine the Government's right to initiate any meetings with a nation that continues to pose a serious military threat to South Korea. Opposition politicians also urged students to cancel the meeting.

## Inquiry Into Scandals

As the students clashed with police officers, South Korea faced another political challenge: the opening today of a special parliamentary session to examine the sensitive issue of investigating scandals of the former Chun Government. These include allegations of corruption and the 1980 Kwangju incident, in which Government troops killed hundreds of demonstrators.

At the same time, North Korean film broadcast in Tokyo showed crisply dressed young men and women, with garlands around their necks, marching toward Panmunjom along roads lined with cheering people.

The North Korean press agency, monitored in Tokyo, said the 13-member delegation waited in vain at Panmunjom, and criticized the South's decision to ban the student meeting as "an arbitrary and fascist anti-national criminal act."

To stop the students' march north, the South Korean Government massed its greatest show of force in a year. Sixty-thousand police officers manned blockades, faced off against student demonstrators and checked the identity cards of anyone riding buses and cars to Panmunjom.

## Veterans Assail March

About 40 students managed to elude their pursuers, only to be arrested at Munsan, a train terminus on the way to Panmunjom, or at the Imjingak pavilion near the border village. Several Korean War veterans, some in wheelchairs, held their own rally at the pavilion to condemn the students' actions.

The police arrested more than 500 students, and more than 100 students and riot policemen were reported injured in the clashes. One student, Chon Woo Yong of Yonsei University, was reported in serious condition after being hit in the head by an exploding tear-gas canister.

The fiercest fighting today centered on the university, which served as headquarters for the march.

Students shouting "Yankee go home!" dashed outside the wrought-iron gates to hurl rocks and gasoline bombs at policemen, who bombarded them with thick clouds of tear gas. Broken glass and rocks littered the streets near the university, which were closed to traffic most of the day.

While battles raged at Yonsei, several thousand students managed to slip past the police cordon, massing near the railroad station and the Hongjae-dong traffic circle in northwest Seoul.

As soon as the police spotted small groups of students marching toward the railroad station, they fired tear gas, enveloping the busy station and market areas with nauseating fumes.

Several thousand students headed north for the traffic circle. There, in a change of tactics, they lay down in the road and chanted, fists rhythmically punching the air.

The police first moved in armored vehicles that fire tear gas. Then the policemen stared at the swelling ranks of students, pulled off their gas masks

and sat down to wait it out. Suddenly, after a prolonged standoff, the armored vehicles opened fire, filling the air with tear gas.

Police officers chased students down alleys and forced them to kneel, arms behind their backs and foreheads to the ground. As students knelt, several policemen kicked them in their backs, prompting shouts from a watching crowd. The police then tossed tear-gas grenades into the crowd, infuriating some onlookers, who then punched and kicked policemen.

Although many South Koreans echo the arguments of the students — that the Government in the past monopolized the debate on reunification, and moved too slowly to improve relations — few endorsed the march today.